

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1 1. (Canceled)

1 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23+, wherein ~~the associating a respective~~
2 ~~activity characteristics value with at least one of the activity pre-structured process models~~
3 ~~comprises~~structuring selected activities comprises:
4 providing a user-defined at least one of the activity characteristics values as an activity
5 reliability value for at least one of the two or more activities; and
6 associating the activity reliability value with the at least one of the activities within the
7 plurality of activities and with a corresponding at least one of the activity pre-structured process
8 models. activity relationship pre-structured model.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23+, ~~wherein~~ wherein the structuring selected
2 activities comprises associating a respective activity characteristics value with at least one of the
3 activity pre-structured process models comprises:
4 providing at least one of the activity characteristics values as a user a user-defined
5 production type value for at least one of the two or more activities; and
6 associating the production type value with at least one of the activities within the
7 plurality of activities and with a corresponding at least one of the activity pre-structured process
8 models. at least one of the activity pre-structured process models.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23+, wherein ~~the associating an activity~~
2 ~~relationship value with the activity relationship pre-structured model comprises~~structuring the
3 time precedence relationships comprises:

4 providing at least one of the activity relationship values as a user-defined time
5 precedence relationship value between the two or more activities; and
6 associating the time precedence relationship value with at least one of the time
7 precedence relationships and with a corresponding at least one of the activity relationship pre-
8 structured model-models.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23+, wherein the structuring the time
2 precedence relationships comprises associating an activity relationship value with the activity
3 relationship pre-structured model comprises:

4 providing at least one of the activity relationship values as a user-defined sensitivity
5 value for the time precedence relationship; and

6 associating the sensitivity value with at least one of the time precedence relationships
7 and with a corresponding at least one of the activity relationship pre-structured model-models.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23+, further comprising:

2 associating a policy value with at least one of the selected activities and with a
3 respective at least one of the activity pre-structured process models. at least one of the activity
4 pre-structured process models.

1 7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23+, wherein dynamically adjusting the DPM
2 project planning model to provide a DPM project plan comprises at least one of the time
3 precedence relationships and a corresponding at least one of the activity relationship pre-
4 structured models includes a reliability buffer extending prior to a start time of a downstream
5 one of the plurality of activities and coupled to an upstream one of the plurality of activities.:
6 ~~automatically generating a reliability buffer in association with the two or more~~
7 ~~activities, wherein the reliability buffer has a duration value, an upstream time precedence~~
8 ~~relationship between the reliability buffer and an upstream activity, and a downstream time~~

9 ~~precedence relationship between the reliability buffer a downstream activity, to provide the~~
10 ~~DPM project plan.~~

1 9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one of the time
2 precedence relationships downstream time precedence relationship is finish to start is indicative
3 of a relationship between the end of the upstream activity and the start of the reliability buffer
4 with no lag or lead.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the reliability buffer is associated
2 with a corresponding one of the activity relationship values. ~~automatically generating the~~
3 ~~reliability buffer comprises:~~
4 ~~—— associating the activity characteristics value, the activity relationship value, at least one~~
5 ~~of the activity pre-structured process models, and with the activity relationship pre-structured~~
6 ~~model.~~

1 11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~10~~23, wherein the ~~automatically generating the~~
2 ~~reliability buffer further comprises:~~further comprising:
3 associating a policy value with at least one of the time precedence relationships and with
4 a respective at least one of the activity relationship pre-structured models.~~associating a policy~~
5 ~~value with at least one of the activity pre-structured process models, and with the activity~~
6 ~~relationship pre-structured model.~~

1 12. (Canceled)

1 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~23~~12, wherein ~~dynamically updating the DPM~~
2 ~~project planning model to provide an updated DPM project plan comprises~~further comprising:
3 automatically generating an updated~~updating a~~ reliability buffer in association~~extending~~
4 prior to a start time of ~~with the updated second~~ activity, wherein the updated reliability buffer
5 has at least one of an updated duration value, an updated upstream time precedence relationship

6 value between the updated reliability buffer and an upstream activity, ~~and or an updated~~
7 ~~downstream time precedence relationship between the updated reliability buffer and a~~
8 ~~downstream the second activity, to provide the updated DPM project plan.~~

1 14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~14~~23, wherein the automatically generating
2 ~~the updated reliability buffer further comprises~~updating the second activity relationship value
3 comprises:

4 structuring the first activity relationship pre-structured model with a first reliability
5 buffer having the first activity relationship value, wherein the first reliability buffer is
6 associated with a start time of the first activity;

7 structuring the second activity relationship pre-structured model with a second
8 reliability buffer having the second activity relationship value, wherein the second reliability
9 buffer is associated with a start time of the second activity; and

10 automatically updating the second activity relationship value in response to the updating
11 the first activity relationship value, identifying a similar activity corresponding to the updated
12 activity, having a similar activity characteristics value, a similar activity relationship value, a
13 similar policy value, and a similar activity pre-structured process model;

14 ~~—— associating the similar activity characteristics value, the similar activity relationship~~
15 ~~value, the similar activity pre-structured process model, and the a relationship pre-structured~~
16 ~~model associated with the similar activity; and~~

17 ~~—— adjusting the updated duration value, the updated upstream time precedence~~
18 ~~relationship, and the updated downstream time precedence relationship of the updated~~
19 ~~reliability buffers.~~

1 16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~23, wherein the similar second activity has a
2 similar activity name as the first activity, the same activity characteristics values, the same
3 activity relationship values, and the same policy values as the updated activity.

1 17. (Currently Amended) A dynamic planning apparatus comprising:
2 a dynamic planning method (DPM) data processor that provides a plurality of activities
3 having respective activity data that is a combination of~~includes at least one of~~ policy data,
4 activity characteristics data, ~~and or~~ activity relationship data; and
5 a DPM processor coupled to the DPM data processor to process the activity data,
6 wherein the DPM processor is adapted to automatically update selected activity data from
7 among the activity data in response to an update of other selected activity data from among the
8 activity data. ~~to provide a DPM project plan.~~

1 18. (Original) The dynamic planning apparatus of claim 17, wherein the DPM processor also
2 provides one or more DPM performance profiles.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The dynamic planning apparatus of claim 17, wherein the DPM data
2 processor includes:
3 a DPM policy data processor that provides the policy data; and
4 a DPM activity data processor[,] that provides the activity characteristics data and the
5 activity relationship data.

1 20. (Original) The dynamic planning apparatus of claim 19, wherein the DPM activity data
2 processor includes:
3 a DPM activity characteristics graphical user interface (GUI) that provides the activity
4 characteristics data; and
5 a DPM activity relationship GUI that provides the activity relationship data.

1 21. (Currently Amended) The dynamic planning apparatus of claim ~~20~~19, wherein the DPM
2 activity data processor includes a dependency structure matrix GUI for entry of at least one of
3 the activity characteristics data ~~and or~~ the activity relationship data.

1 22. (Currently Amended) The dynamic planning apparatus of claim ~~2~~17, further comprising:
2 one or more conventional project planning models that provide conventional project
3 plan data; and
4 a data transfer processor coupled to the one or more conventional project planning
5 models and further coupled to the DPM data processor to receive the conventional project plan
6 data from the one or more conventional project planning models and to provide formatted data
7 to the DPM data processor.

1 23. (New) A computer-implemented method of dynamic project planning, comprising:
2 generating a project list having a plurality of activities, each activity having a respective
3 activity name;
4 structuring selected activities from among the plurality of activities with respective
5 activity pre-structured process models, the activity pre-structured process models having
6 respective activity characteristics values;
7 generating time precedence relationships between the plurality of activities;
8 structuring the time precedence relationships with respective activity relationship pre-
9 structured models, the activity relationship pre-structured models having respective activity
10 relationship values;
11 selecting a first activity having a first activity name from among the plurality of
12 activities, wherein the first activity is associated with a first one of the activity pre-structured
13 process models having a first activity characteristics value, wherein the first activity is
14 associated with a first one of the activity relationship pre-structured models having a first
15 activity relationship value;
16 updating at least one of the first activity characteristics value or the first activity
17 relationship value;
18 automatically identifying, in response to the updating, a second activity having a second
19 activity name from among the plurality of activities, wherein the second activity is associated
20 with a second activity pre-structured process model having a second activity characteristics
21 value, wherein the second activity is associated with a second one of the activity relationship

22 pre-structured models having a second activity relationship value, wherein the second activity
23 characteristics value is the same as the first activity characteristics value or the second activity
24 relationship value is the same as the first activity relationship value; and
25 automatically updating, in response to the updating at least one of the first activity
26 characteristics value or the first activity relationship value, a corresponding at least one of the
27 second activity characteristics value or the second activity relationship value.